

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown.

1.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An electric power steering system comprising:

a support shaft integrally rotatably connected with an output shaft of an electric motor;

a first bevel gear, including a first axis, provided at a distal end of the support shaft;

a second bevel gear, including a second axis, meshed with the first bevel gear with ~~their~~ the axes intersecting each other;

a rack shaft linearly moved thereby steering steerable road wheels;

a rotary element rotatably supported by the rack housing as enclosing the rack shaft and operating to transmit the rotation of the electric motor via the first bevel gear and the second bevel gear; and

a power conversion mechanism formed between the rotary element and the rack shaft for converting the rotary motion of the rotary element to the linear motion of the rack shaft;

wherein the support shaft is allowed to move toward the second bevel gear and is biased toward the second bevel gear by a biasing member.

9. (Original) The electric power steering system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the biasing member is interposed between the support shaft and the output shaft of the electric motor.

10. (Original) The electric power steering system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein an elastically deformable buffer member is interposed between the support shaft and a support-shaft housing supporting the support shaft.

11. (Original) The electric power steering system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the rack housing comprises a first housing for supporting one end of the rotary element as allowing for the relative axial movement thereof, and a second housing for supporting the other end of the rotary element as inhibiting the relative axial movement thereof, and

wherein a housing adjuster provides for adjustment of the relative axial positions of the first housing and the second housing with respect to the rack shaft.